GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3310
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
Use of Highway Stretches as Landing Strips
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a step forward to use highway stretches as 'landing strips' in an emergency for fighter aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the plans of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the IAF has asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to upgrade the existing highways or build new ones for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the NHAI thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has initiated action to use highway stretches as 'landing strips' in an emergency. A landing was carried out by a Mirage 2000 aircraft on the Yamuna Expressway on 21st May 2015.

(c) & (d): A generic plan for utilisation of National Highways as landing Strips during eventualities by IAF has been sent to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
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